

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3582

S E C R E T JIDDA 0831

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, EG, US

SUBJECT: TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN SAUDI F-5 PROGRAM

REF STATE 22428 (CAIRO 1212), STATE 20008 (JIDDA 0607)

1. CHIEF OF U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION (USMTM), GENEREZ

AHMANN, INFORMED EMBASSY FEB 4 THAT ON FEB 3 THE
EGYPTIAN PILOTS IN THE F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM BEGAN A
10-DAY TOUR OF AIR BASES AT TAIF, RIYADH AND JIDDA.

2. THE NINE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS, HOWEVER, SHOW
NO DISPOSITION TO STOP THEIR TRAINING. FOR THIS GROUP,
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CLASSROOM TECHNICAL TRAINING
(CTT) WOULD TERMINATE ON FEB 11, AFTER WHICH THEY WOULD
NORMALLY COMMENCE APPROXIMATELY FOUR WEEKS OF ON-THE-JOB
TRAINING (OJT) UNDER U.S. CONTRACTOR.

3. TO AVOID THIS SITUATION, AND IN AN ATTEMPT AT LEAST
TO GAIN MORE TIME, USMTM HAS MODIFIED OJT PROGRAM SO THAT
EACH TECHNICIAN WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ONE RSAF INSTRUCTOR.
WHILE THERE ARE NO FULLY QUALIFIED OJT RSAF INSTRUCTORS,
USMTM HAS SELECTED THE MOST NEARLY QUALIFIED IN ORDER TO AVOID
ANY ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. INSTRUCTORS. USMTM POINTS OUT,
HOWEVER, THAT THE OJT PROGRAM IS AN OPERATIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAM IN A FIGHTER AND MAINTENANCE WING WITH A
FULLY INTEGRATED U.S./RSAF OPERATION. THIS OJT ARRANGEMENT
IS LESS SEPARATE AND DEFINED THAN THE CLASSROOM TECHNICAL

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TRAINING. IT WOULD INVOLVE SOME INCIDENTAL (BUT NOT TRAINING)

CONTACT BETWEEN EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS AND US NORTHROP PERSONNEL.

4. IF THIS PROCEDURE IS SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT,
NO FURTHER APPROACHES WOULD NEED TO BE MADE BY AMEMBASSY
CAIRO TO GOE IN ANTICIPATION OF FEB 11 DATE. IF IT IS
NOT, ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SUSPEND TECHNICIAN TRAINING
SHOULD TAKE PLACE.

5. WE WILL REPORT AGAIN ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE PILOTS
WHEN THEY COMWLETE THEIR TOUR OF SAUDI AIR BASES.

6. COMMENT: USMTM CHIEF HAS OBSERVED TO THE EMBASSY
THAT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS USMTM'S RELATIONS
WITH RSAF OFFICERS HAVE BEEN NOTICABLY LESS COOPERATIVE
AND FRIENDLY. HE BELIEVES THAT WHILE PART OF THIS IS
UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO CERTAIN ONGOING MILITARY
NEGOTIATIONS, THESE OFFICERS ARE ALSO DISTURBED
AND CONFUSED BY THE SITUATION REGARDING EGYPTIAN
TRAINING. WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT
APPROVAL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED FOR THE EGYPTIAN
OJT PROGRAM.

7. PLEASE REPEAT TO EMBASSY CAIRO.
PORTER

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